

Magnolia Reviews of Texas, LLC

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[Date notice sent to all parties]:

05/23/2016

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE: Orthovisc
Injections

**A DESCRIPTION OF THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR EACH PHYSICIAN OR
OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WHO REVIEWED THE DECISION:**

Board Certified Orthopedic Surgeon

REVIEW OUTCOME:

Upon independent review, the reviewer finds that the previous adverse
determination/adverse determinations should be:

☐ Upheld (Agree)

Provide a description of the review outcome that clearly states whether medical
necessity exists for each of the health care services in dispute.

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]:

This lady has right knee pain that began with a fall on the ice on XX/XX/XX. X-rays
reported no significant abnormalities. She does have a history of a previous injury to
the knee several years prior that resolved.

**ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION OF THE DECISION INCLUDE CLINICAL
BASIS, FINDINGS, AND CONCLUSIONS USED TO SUPPORT THE DECISION:**

ODG recommendations for approval of Hyalgan injections involve treatment for osteoarthritis.
This young lady has negative x-rays for degenerative changes, and she has an acute injury to the
right knee. She did not respond to a steroid injection. An MRI of the knee reported a 1-2mm
impaction fracture with no adjacent chondral injury. There was a chondral loss posterior to the
injured area.

There are no indications for Hyalgan injections for this acute injury in a young person under the
age of 50 with no documentation of arthritic changes due to the injury. The tiny impaction injury
should heal without sequelae and this injury does not provide indications for Hyalgan injections.
There are no indications that she has positive objective findings that correlate with the subjective
complaints.

Therefore, the request is not approved based on the medical records including objective physical

findings on her history of not meeting criteria established by ODG for the requested procedure.

IRO REVIEWER REPORT TEMPLATE -WC

A DESCRIPTION AND THE SOURCE OF THE SCREENING CRITERIA OR OTHER CLINICAL BASIS USED TO MAKE THE DECISION:

- ☐ ODG knee chapter on injections

Criteria for Hyaluronic acid injections:

- (1) Patients experience significantly symptomatic osteoarthritis but have not responded adequately to recommended conservative non-pharmacologic (e.g., exercise) and pharmacologic treatments, or are intolerant of these therapies (e.g., gastrointestinal problems related to anti-inflammatory medications), after at least 3 months;
- (2) Documented symptomatic severe osteoarthritis of the knee, which may include the following: Bony enlargement; Bony tenderness; Crepitus (noisy, grating sound) on active motion; Less than 30 minutes of morning stiffness; No palpable warmth; Over 50 years of age.
- (3) Pain interferes with functional activities (e.g., ambulation, prolonged standing) and not attributed to other forms of joint disease;
- (4) Failure to adequately respond to aspiration and injection of intra-articular corticosteroids;
- (5) Generally performed without fluoroscopic or ultrasound guidance;
- (6) Are not currently candidates for total knee replacement or who have failed previous knee surgery for their arthritis, unless younger patients wanting to delay total knee replacement. (Wen, 2000)
- (7) Repeat series of injections: If documented significant improvement in symptoms for 6 months or more, and symptoms recur, may be reasonable to do another series. No maximum established by high quality scientific evidence; see Repeat series of injections above.
- (8) Hyaluronic acid injections are NOT recommended for any other indications such as chondromalacia patellae, facet joint arthropathy, osteochondritis dissecans, patellofemoral arthritis, patellofemoral syndrome (patellar knee pain), plantar nerve entrapment syndrome, or for use in joints other than the knee (e.g., ankle, carpo-metacarpal joint, elbow, hip, metatarso-phalangeal joint, shoulder, or temporomandibular joint) since the effectiveness of hyaluronic acid injections for these indications has not been established..